

A533 Expressway bridge

September 2021

The existing A533 Expressway bridge, which was constructed in 1971, has now reached the end of its serviceable life. The bridge is situated between junctions 11 and 12 of the M56 and carries Chester Road combined with the A533 over the M56 motorway. It is a vital local link, providing access to Runcorn from Preston Brook and Northwich.

We plan to replace the existing structure with a new 67m two-span concrete bridge that will carry a single two-lane carriageway and a combined footway/cycleway. The replacement bridge will have an increased lifespan of over 120 years, maintaining safety and connectivity in the long term.

The existing A533 Expressway bridge, propped up with temporary supports



Project background

In March 2020, the Department for Transport announced the second Road Investment Strategy (RIS2) for 2020–2025. This confirmed that the previously proposed M56 new junction 11a scheme would not be progressed further. We intended to replace the A533 bridge as part of the larger new junction scheme. The scheme was cancelled as our assessments showed that the project would not provide value for money. This is due to improved traffic flows as a result of the recently improved roundabout at junction 12 for the Mersey Gateway Bridge.

We've proceeded with our plans to replace the A533 Expressway bridge and, in July 2020, we confirmed our Side Roads Order and Compulsory Purchase Order with the Department for Transport. Since then, we've been working on the bridge design and planning the construction phase of work, including traffic management and environmental considerations.

Current overview

The design for the new bridge is almost complete. We've carried out a number of surveys which has helped to support the overall design and our plans have been discussed with the local authorities. We expect the scheme to take approximately 18 months to complete.

Timescales

- Start of construction work – autumn 2021
- New bridge open to traffic – winter 2022
- Existing bridge demolition complete – winter 2022

For all the latest information, please visit our scheme webpage:
www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A533BridgeReplacement

Start of works and planned closures

On Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 October, we'll need to close the A533 Expressway bridge overnight in both directions to work on the signalling cables. These closures will be in place from 8pm to 6am both nights.

We've scheduled a third closure as a precaution should either of the first two closures get cancelled. This closure would take place overnight on Wednesday 6 October.

Additionally, some overnight lane closures are required on the M56 that same week. These will be in place from 9pm to 6am for up to two nights. One lane will be open for traffic and running at normal speed limits.

All full carriageway closures will have clear signed diversion routes in place, and for more information please visit the scheme webpage.

The bridge carries the A533 across the M56, connecting communities separated by the motorway



Potential impacts

We'll be installing narrow running lanes and a reduced speed limit on the M56 underneath the existing bridge in order to create a safe working environment for our workforce.

The traffic management will be in place from autumn 2021 for the 12-month construction period and is required to ensure the safety of both drivers and our people.

We'll also be installing narrow lanes and traffic lights on the A533, and we'll need to close the road overnight on some occasions for work which we cannot carry out safely with traffic using the road.

A substantial part of the project will be built off site to minimise disruption to road users and we'll keep the existing bridge open whilst we construct the new bridge. Once complete, we'll transfer traffic onto the new bridge to continue the flow of traffic. We will then begin work to demolition the exiting bridge.

In order to install the new bridge in summer 2022, we'll need to close the M56 and A533 over a full weekend. We'll provide further details and confirmed timings for this in advance of the closure.

We'll be setting up a site compound on land to the south of Chester Road, near to the Whitehouse Industrial Estate. There will likely be a small increase in traffic in the area due to our site vehicles, however we'll be managing traffic to ensure they are entering and exiting the compound in a safe manner. This will include a right turn ban when pulling into or out of the compound. You may notice some traffic management in place at this site from October 2021.

As part of the scheme, we'll be building improved pedestrian and cycling facilities to provide better connectivity between communities separated by the M56. We'll need to close the footpath on the eastern side of the bridge while build the new bridge and divert utilities out of the existing bridge. We'll keep the western side footpath open for the duration of the work, until the bridge is demolished.

The current footpath which pedestrians and cyclists use to cross the motorway



If you need help accessing this or any other National Highways information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

Environment

We've already carried out a variety of surveys to make sure we fully understand the local environmental, before we start work. These include:

- Site compound and scheme footprint walkaround to identify any environmental constraints
- Bat Roost Potential assessment on existing bridge deck and trees
- Tree Survey to identify any trees which may require removal and replacing
- Great crested newt presence and absence surveys
- Pre-construction badger survey

We're producing Precautionary Working Method Statements for all protected species identified in the area to ensure their protection.

We've removed some trees and vegetation in order to safely build the new bridge. Where possible, we'll replant these like for like with what we've needed to remove. Our landscaping plans are now finalised, but if you have any concerns about this work we'd be happy to discuss our plans with you. You can contact us on the details below.

We'll also be monitoring the materials which we have delivered to site and use in construction. This will allow us to calculate the associated amount of carbon dioxide equivalent produced. From this we can look at ways to reduce certain materials, and reduce and manage waste more effectively.

Contact us

For the latest information about the scheme visit our webpage:
www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A533BridgeReplacement

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about the scheme, you can contact us on the following details:

Email: **A533expresswaybridge@highwaysengland.co.uk**

Phone: **0300 123 500** (Customer Contact Centre)

Or scan the QR using your smartphone

To receive future updates about the A533 Expressway bridge replacement scheme, please get in touch and share your contact details so we can add you to our mailing list. Please sign up to receive them by emailing us on the details above.



© Crown copyright 2021.

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence: visit **www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/** write to the **Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU**, or email **psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk**.

Mapping (where present): © Crown copyright and database rights 2021 OS 100030649. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

This document is also available on our website at **www.highwaysengland.co.uk**
For an accessible version of this publication please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

If you have any enquiries about this publication email **info@highwaysengland.co.uk** or call **0300 123 5000***. Please quote the National Highways publications code **PR10/21**.

National Highways creative job number MCR21_0022

*Calls to 03 numbers cost no more than a national rate call to an 01 or 02 number and must count towards any inclusive minutes in the same way as 01 and 02 calls. These rules apply to calls from any type of line including mobile, BT, other fixed line or payphone. Calls may be recorded or monitored.

Printed on paper from well-managed forests and other controlled sources when issued directly by National Highways.

Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ
National Highways Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363